(b) to (d) Government have been, appropriately and effectively, bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism. The matter has been raised during high level interactions with several world leaders. Seven high level delegations comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, distinguished scholars and former diplomats also visited selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Gulf, South East Asia and Africa in the months of January and February this year. The international community now also openly acknowledges the fact that Pakistan has been sponsoring cross border terrorism. In its fight against terrorism India has also been cooperating with several countries at the operational and policy levels, including through Joint Working Groups on terrorism.

There is strong international support for India's determination to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed. India has also received support for the diplomatic and other measures taken in this regard. The widespread consensus in the international community is that there is no justification for terrorism which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

Regulation at Madarsas in Nepal

1256. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Nepal Government has taken a decision to regulate the functioning of madarsas along its borders with UP and Bihar;

(b) if so, whether such steps taken by the Nepal Government are posing threat to security of the country;

(c) whether the Nepal Government has been encouraging Islamic groups to set up more madarsas near UP and Bihar borders;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with the Nepal Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Nepalese Government has recently made it compulsory for all religious schools, including madarsas in Nepal to get registered with the local authorities and to submit their income and expenditure accounts to the respective District Administration Office by mid-March 2002.

(b) to (e) The decision of HMGN to regulate the functioning and finances of Madarsas would help in preventing them from engaging in activities incompatible with their stated objectives. The issue was also discussed during the Home Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal held at New Delhi from February 6-7, 2002. The Government of Nepal has given the assurance that it would not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest.

Afghanistan's request for assistance

1257. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interim Government of Afghanistan has requested India's assistance in setting up schools and colleges;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this, the Afghan Government has urged for having a medical services and other social infrastructure;

(c) whether Government have agreed to help and assist the Afghan Government;

(d) whether he met the Prime Minister of Afghanistan during his visit in December, 2001; and

(e) if so, what were the main points discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India is committed to provide humanitarian relief, reconstruction